THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

18

ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

HENCE MY APPEARANCE.

NAGATO-SAN IS RESTING AT THE MOMENT, ISN'T SHE?

THAT'S HOW THINGS WORK, YOU KNOW.

IF SHE CAN'T, THEN THAT MEANS I'M UP.

I AM HER BACKUP, AFTER ALL.

18

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

ORIGINAL STORY **NAGARU TANIGAWA** MANGA **GAKU TSUGANO** CHARACTER DESIGN: **NOIZI ITO**

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...
CAN'T ACT...

NAGATO
...

SO BAD THAT I HAD TO RELY ON A KILLER FOR HELP.

THIS WAS BAD— REALLY BAD.

I CAN'T DO THAT.

NOT SO LONG AS SHE'S OVER THERE.

I MEAN, I HAVEN'T KILLED ANYBODY, HAVE I?

HOW RUDE. I'M NOT A KILLER.

I CAN'T EVEN SWALLOW.

SO PUT THAT THING SOME-WHERE ELSE.

HOW INTER-ESTING.

IF YOU DIED HERE, I WONDER HOW SHE WOULD REACT.

SO YOU'RE A HUMANOID TERMINAL FOR THIS HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN, ARE YOU?

SHE SAYS THESE THINGS LIKE SHE'S MAKING SMALL TALK.

SHE'S STILL THE SAME OLD CLASS REP!

WHERE ARE WE?

IT'S QUIET, HERE... TOO QUIET.

THE WORLD HAD COME TO A HALT.

IT WAS A TRAP— BUT FOR WHOM?

I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE INTER-FERING.

THIS WAY NO ONE CAN OBSERVE US, CAN THEY?

NO ONE CAN ESCAPE.

MANIPU-LATION OF SPACIAL INFORMATION IS MY SPECIALTY.

NOW THEN, KUYOH-SAN.

SHALL WE TALK?

OR SHALL WE FIGHT?

I WOULD LOVE TO SEE JUST WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF. THAT'S PART OF MY JOB TOO.

IT IS NOT YOU.

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOU.

YOU ARE NOT IM-POR-TANT.

THREAT LEVEL HIGH...

YOUR INTENT TO KILL, GEN-UINE.

...

RE-LEASE THAT HUMAN.

YURARI (FLICK)

YUU...

BUT IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT...

YOU'RE HURTING MY FEELINGS.

THREAT IN-CREASED BY TWO LEVELS.

-BISHI (WHAP)

!?

NICELY DONE.

THREAT LEVEL STILL RISING.

THIS WILL BE INTER-ESTING.

THAT WAS JUST A PROBE, BUT IT DID EXCEED YOUR ESTIMATED CAPACITY.

GU (STRAIN) GU

THE MOVEMENT WAS INSTAN-TANEOUS!

SHE THREW THE KNIFE USING JUST HER WRIST?

EXPANDING RANGE OF DATA CONTROL.

COM-MENCING DEPLOY-MENT OF OFFENSIVE DATA.

SHIFTING TO TER-MINATION MODE.

REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION OF LIMITED-SPACE COMBAT SIMULATION FOR ANALYSIS OF TARGET.

CHIRI

CHIRI

CHIRI (ZZT)

CHIRI

BAKAA (CRAACK)

WHOOOA

!3

THE SCENERY'S SHATTER-ING!

GUOOOO (RRRUMBLE)

...FOR THE SECOND TIME NOW!

I'M SEEING THE INSANE GEOMETRY OF ASAKURA'S DATA JURISDICTION SPACE...

MOVE AWAY FROM THAT HUMAN.

オ オ

OOOO (RUMBLE)

オ

オ

GIRI (STRAIN)

THREAT LEVEL STABI-LIZED.

GIRI

OOO

YOU ARE IRRELE-VANT.

GIRI

GYUN (ZOOM)

PA (FWIP)

ぱっ

KLIN (SPIN)

BASHI (WHAP)

!?

KIMIDORI-SAN!?

YOUR ACTIONS ARE NOT FOUNDED ON THE CONSENSUS OF THE DATA OVERMIND.

I'VE COME TO STOP YOUR DEVIANT ACTIVITIES.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?

I CANNOT AUTHORIZE THIS.

REALLY.

OH, REALLY?

WOULD YOU GIVE THAT BACK?

IS THAT SO? FINE.

BI (FLICK)

GYUN (ZOOM)

HYUN (WHIZ)

GOO (WHOOSH)

PITA (SMACK)

SHE TURNED FLAT AND... DISAP-PEARED?

WHEN DID THE KNIFE RETURN TO HER HAND?

IT'S LIKE A LASER!

NO... SHE IS STILL HERE.

DID SHE ES-CAPE?

IF ASAKURA-SAN HADN'T GRABBED IT, I WOULD'VE BEEN KILLED!

DID SHE ACTUALLY SAVE ME...?

HYU (SHOO)

GA (SNATCH)

HYUGOO (WHOOM)

PITA

GIRI (STRAIN)

GIRI

KUYOH-SAN, WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THIS HUMAN?

DO YOU WANT TO KILL HIM?

OR DO YOU WANT TO LET HIM LIVE?

QUERY MEANING UNCLEAR.

DEFINE "HUMAN."

DEFINE "KILL." DEFINE "LIVE."

DEFINE ...

...ANSWER.

YOU HAVE LOVELY FEATURES, KUYOH-SAN.

I WILL NOT YIELD A SINGLE THING TO THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN. NOT EVEN THE LIFE OF THIS HUMAN.

BUT LET'S END THIS, SHALL WE?

GIRI

GIRI

...ARE THESE DEMIGODS TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT THE HELL...

GIRI

COMMENCING OFFENSIVE DATA STRIKE.

BACHI
(CRACKLE)

DEFINE
...

...DATA
OVER-
MIND...

SHAA
(SHOOO)

AAAA

ANSWER.

DEFINE
HEAVENLY
CANOPY
DOMAIN
...

WHAT KIND OF SMILE IS THAT?

SO CLEAR, SO BEAUTIFUL...

TANIGUCHI WOULD'VE GONE FOR IT IN A HEARTBEAT.

ANYONE COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH THAT SMILE.

GOAAAAAAAA (WHOOOOOO)

DID SHE ACTUALLY ESCAPE THIS TIME?

A SHIFT IN THE PHYSICAL DIMENSIONALITY OF HER CORPOREAL DATA.

I AM CURRENTLY TRACKING THE TARGET AND REPAIRING LOCAL SPACE

SHE DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN CREATED TO COMMUNICATE WITH HUMANS.

SHE HAS NO NEED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

SHE'S A VERY DIFFERENT TERMINAL THAN WE ARE.

.. SHE'S PROBABLY AN INTERPRETATION PLATFORM FOR COMMUNICATING WITH US.

IN FACT...

HER INTEREST IN HARUHI SUZUMIYA PROBABLY COMES FROM OBSERVING THE DATA OVERMIND.

"tt" ~ZA (SCUFF)

GIVEN THAT THEIR LOGICAL FOUNDATION IS SO DIFFERENT ...

SHE BROKE MY DATA OFFENSIVE WITHOUT NEEDING TO DECODE IT.

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE SHE'S A MERE TERMINAL.

I IMAGINE YOU MANAGED TO COLLECT A BIT OF DATA, DIDN'T YOU?

HEE HEE HEE...

I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU.

...INFLICTING FATAL DAMAGE WILL REQUIRE ANALYSIS OF THE ALGORITHMS OF THE DOMAIN TO WHICH SHE IS CONNECTED.

SARA (SST)

WOULDN'T IT BE A GOOD IDEA TO PICK UP ALL THE FRAGMENTS AND ANALYZE THE GREATER STRUCTURE OF THE PLATFORM?

I'VE BEEN THINK-ING...

...EVEN IF DATA ERASURE IS IMPOSSIBLE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DESTROY THE PHYSICAL TERMINAL ITSELF.

BUT I THINK AT THE MOMENT SHE WOULD BE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH ME.

YOU SOUND LIKE NAGATO-SAN.

INDE-PENDENT ACTION IS NOT AUTHO-RIZED.

GOOD-NESS.

AND JUST WHEN DID YOU BECOME THE DATA OVERMIND'S REPRESEN-TATIVE?

THE DATA OVER-MIND HAS NOT AUTHO-RIZED THIS.

I WILL SUSPEND YOU.

SHE PROPOSED THE TRANS-FER.

AND IT WAS APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL CONSCIOUS-NESS OF THE DATA OVERMIND.

THE INTERFACE DESIGNATED YUKI NAGATO TRANSFERRED A SUBSET OF HER AUTONOMOUS JUDGMENT HEURISTICS TO ME.

MY ACTIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF THE OVERMIND.

BOTH.

OR ARE YOU JUST TRYING TO PUT ME IN THE MINORITY?

YOU MEAN THOSE LAZY CONSER-VATIVES DESPERATE TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO?

"CON-SENSUS" ...?

...YOU ARE A BACKUP RESOURCE TO BE DEPLOYED ONLY IN EMERGENCIES.

HEE HEE HEE ...

MY BEHAVIOR PATTERNS ARE UNCHANGED FROM THEIR PREVIOUS ALIGNMENT AND HAVE STILL NOT BEEN OVERWRITTEN.

YOUR UTILITY IS ONLY SLIGHTLY GREATER THAN THE RISKS YOU POSE.

YUKI NAGATO AND I HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED ONLY THAT YOUR ABILITIES ARE NECESSARY IN A LIMITED CAPACITY.

KYU (TUG)

...HUH.

I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE AUTHORITY TO CANCEL YOUR DATA INTEGRATION.

I WAS REVIVED THANKS TO YOU.

SHOULD I THANK YOU, THEN?

ALL I PLAN TO DO IS TAKE ACTION ACCORDING TO MY OWN WILL.

I LEARNED THAT FROM NAGATO-SAN...

...WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR TRUE SELF-EVOLUTION LIES.

FUU (SIGH)

FINE.

WHICH MEANS I CAN'T BEAT YOU.

GIVEN THAT ...

...DON'T YOU THINK WE COULD DO THE SAME THING?

DON'T YOU KNOW, KIMIDORI-SAN?

SHE'S NO LONGER A MERE TERMINAL.

BUT I'LL SAY THIS AGAIN ...

ONE NAGATO'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME.

I APPRECIATE YOU STOPPING KUYOH'S ATTACK.

LIKE HELL YOU COULD.

TEE HEE HEE ...

HOW CRUEL YOU ARE!

WE DON'T NEED YOU, ASA-KURA!

ONE NAGATO IS ENOUGH.

THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON YOU USED TO BE.

IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO PUT A KNIFE TO MY THROAT, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO NAGATO'S PLACE AND MAKE HER SOME FOOD OR SOMETHING?

AND ANOTHER THING.

I CAN'T MAINTAIN THIS FORM FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

IT'S TOO BAD, HUH?

IS THAT THE WAY YOU TALK TO THE PERSON WHO SAVED YOU FROM THE EVIL ALIEN?

OR TRY ASKING NAGATO? IF SHE AGREES, I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO COME BACK FROM CANADA.

...TALK TO OUR ILLUSTRIOUS UPPER-CLASSMAN AND THE MAJORITY FACTION OF THE DATA OVERMIND.

IF YOU HAVE COM-PLAINTS ...

TEE HEE HEE...

THAT'S TOO BAD.

NO, THANKS.

I CAN'T IMAGINE HARUHI BUYING THAT KIND OF PLOT TWIST.

YOU'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO KEEP STUDYING ABROAD.

I WONDER IF YOU UNDER-STAND...

...THAT NAGATO-SAN AND I ARE LIKE OPPOSITE SIDES OF A MIRROR.

I'LL ALWAYS SHOW UP.

SO LONG AS THE SCARY GIRL OVER THERE DOESN'T STOP ME, THAT IS.

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE MY LIMITED ACTIVITIES ARE ABOUT TO END.

CALL ME AGAIN SOMETIME.

PON (PAT)

THE INTERFACE IN FRONT OF YOU WON'T HELP YOU AT ALL.

I'M MUCH CLOSER TO HER THAN KIMIDORI-SAN IS.

WHY WON'T YOU TURN AROUND?

WHY WON'T YOU EVEN LOOK AT ME AND SAY GOOD-BYE?

ONE LOOK AT YOUR CLASS-REP SMILE, AND MY TERROR MIGHT VANISH...

I CAN'T MOVE, NO MATTER THE COST.

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE AS BAD AS KUYOH.

RUDE TO THE VERY END, I SEE.

WELL, FINE.

TA (TAP)

GOOD-BYE, THEN.

ZA (STEP)

ZA

I'LL BE SEEING YOU.

ZA

I GUESS ...

...IF I DON'T ASK, I'LL NEVER GET AN ANSWER.

THE AMBIENT SOUNDS RETURNED TO NORMAL.

KIMI-DORI-SAN.

YES?

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, TIME STARTED MOVING AGAIN...

I CAN'T FIGURE HER OUT AT ALL.

HER ACTIONS MAKE NO SENSE AT ALL—IS IT BECAUSE SHE'S NOT HUMAN?

THAT... KUYOH. WHAT IS SHE?

IT'S STILL DEBATABLE THAT IT IS A SENTIENT BEING.

IT IS NOT EVEN CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT IT CAN BE PROPERLY CLASSIFIED AS LIFE.

THE BEHAVIORAL PRINCIPLES OF THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN DEFY COMPREHENSION.

ESTABLISHING HIGH-LEVEL COMMUNICATION WITH THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMA N.

SHE HAS BEEN GIVEN A SPECIAL DUTY.

CAN YOU AT LEAST DO SOMETHING ABOUT NAGATO'S FEVER?

PLEASE WATCH OVER HER.

NAGATO-SAN SERVES AS A RELAY BETWEEN US AND THEM. SHE DOES SO EVEN NOW.

IT IS A HUGE LEAP FORWARD FROM OUR PREVIOUS MUTUAL INCOMPREHENSION.

ALBEIT INDIRECT...

IT IS SUCH A HIGH LEVEL, IN FACT, THAT WORDS ARE INSUFFICIENT.

IT WOULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY HUMAN.

WHY CAN'T YOU OR ASAKURA DO IT?

BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO FORCE ALL OF THIS ON HER ALONE.

I WOULD CONSIDER HER THE OBVIOUS CHOICE.

SHE IS ALSO THE INTERFACE CLOSEST TO SUZUMIYA-SAN.

... THAT I SHOULD JUST LEAVE HER ALONE?

SO YOU'RE SAYING ...

... NAGATO-SAN WAS THE ONE WITH WHOM THEY FIRST ESTAB-LISHED CONTACT.

...AND THAT SHE WAS THE FIRST ONE WE MET.

IT'S SOMETHING LIKE A MIRACLE THAT NAGATO WAS THE ONE DISPATCHED HERE...

THE DATA OVERMIND REALLY IS JUST A BUNCH OF ASSHOLES.

...NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.

...OR IF ASAKURA'S AND NAGATO'S POSITIONS WERE REVERSED ...

IF IT HAD BEEN YOU IN THE LITERATURE CLUB...

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME THINK THAT HARUHI DIDN'T WISH FOR ALIENS—SHE WISHED FOR NAGATO SPECIFICALLY.

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF NAGATO.

BA (WHAP)

LET THEM WEIGH THEMSELVES AGAINST NAGATO.

THE MAJORITY FACTION, THE RADICAL FACTION, I DON'T CARE—THEY OUGHTTA SHOW THEMSELVES TO HARUHI.

YOU CAN BET HARUHI'LL PICK NAGATO EVERY TIME.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

SU, (SWF)

MY DIRECTIVES PREVENT ANY DEVIATION.

THERE IS NOT VERY MUCH I CAN DO.

IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

LOOK, THIS IS EARTH!

NOT SOME PLAY-GROUND FOR ALIENS!

...CRAP!

I KNEW THERE WAS NO POINT IN FOLLOWING HER.

AND THAT THESE ALIENS WERE INVOLVED IN THINGS MY BRAIN COULDN'T HOPE TO COMPRE-HEND.

I COULDN'T TELL WHO SAID IT.

I WASN'T EVEN SURE IF IT WAS KUYOH, ASAKURA, KIMIDORI, OR SOMEONE ELSE.

MY BRAIN DIDN'T JUST CONJURE WORDS OUT OF THE SOUND OF THE WIND BLOWING ACROSS MY EARS.

BUT I KNOW I HEARD A VOICE SPEAK THOSE WORDS.

AN AMUSING JOKE... INDEED...

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA II : END

KUYOH, ASAKURA, KIMIDORI-SAN—THEY WERE ALL MONSTERS.

IT HAD GOTTEN SO THAT I DIDN'T KNOW WHO WAS AN ENEMY AND WHO WAS ON MY SIDE.

β=7

EVEN AMONG HUMANS THERE WERE ECCENTRIC ONES, BUT YOU COULD AT LEAST GUESS WHAT WENT ON IN THEIR HEADS.

IT WAS EVEN WORSE WHEN THEIR STATS WERE TOTALLY GAME-BREAKING.

BUT THERE WAS NO WAY OF TELLING WHAT WENT ON IN THE MINDS OF MONSTERS.

I DIDN'T GO FAR.

HOW'S NAGA-TO?

ゴソ!

ゴソ!

SFX: GOSO (SHUFFLE) GOSO

SO DON'T GO INTO HER BED-ROOM.

SHE OPENED HER EYES A LITTLE WHILE AGO, BUT THEN SHE FELL BACK ASLEEP.

ふぅ

FUU (SIGH)

UH... SORRY.

PUN (HMPH)

GEEZ! WHERE'D YOU GO, ANYWAY?

YOU JUST UP AND LEFT...

I KNOW IT WAS A HALLUCINATION, BUT IT SEEMS SO REAL NOW.

TSU (SHUT)

YUKI HAD A FEVER, AND WE WERE TAKING CARE OF HER.

THIS HAPPENED BEFORE, DIDN'T IT?

I'M SURE SHE'LL BE BETTER SOON.

THEY SAY YOU GET SICK WHEN THE SEASON CHANGES.

THIS IS JUST LIKE THAT.

THE SEASON'S CHANGING AND EVERYTHING.

THAT'S BECAUSE IT WAS REAL.

THAT NONSENSE ABOUT GROUP HYPNOSIS OR WHATEVER WAS A PACK OF LIES FROM KOIZUMI.

SHE'LL PROBABLY RECOVER IN A FEW DAYS.

YEAH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE HERSELF.

I'M SURE HE COULD'VE COME UP WITH BETTER LIES THAN I COULD.

I WAS ENVIOUS OF KOIZUMI'S WAY WITH WORDS.

A PLACE JUST AS BOXED-UP AS ONE OF YOUR CLOSED SPACES.

WHERE'D YOU GO?

WELCOME BACK.

ONLY FOR A MOMENT, THOUGH. LOOKING AT THE EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE, I'M GUESSING IT WAS NO MERE CHANCE ENCOUNTER.

THERE WERE REPORTS THAT BOTH KUYOH SUOH AND KIMIDORI-SAN WERE SIGHTED.

GOSO (RUSTLE)

SO I SEEMS.

THEY HAVE CHOSEN THE WRONG ALLIES.

FROM WHAT I CAN DEDUCE, THE CHANCES ARE S..IM.

THERE IS ESSENTIALLY [redacted] CONNECTION BETWEEN HER FACTION AND NAGATO-SAN'S CURRENT CONDITION.

I'LL DO WHAT-EVER I CAN.

CAN YOU POKE KYOKO TACHI-BANA?

HE DIDN'T SEEM SCARED OF KUYOH AT ALL.

SO WHAT ABOUT THE TIME TRAVELER? THAT FUJIWARA GUY.

IT'S ABSURD TO THINK THAT HUMANS COULD UNDERSTAND AN ENTITY THAT EVEN THE DATA OVERMIND CANNOT COMPREHEND.

KUYOH SUOH IS NOT SOMEONE WITH WHOM ONE CAN COMMUNICATE.

PUSHU— (SQUISH)

THAT'S TRUE OF BOTH TIME TRAVELER FACTIONS, THOUGH.

IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT HIS AIM IS NOT MERELY TO OBSERVE SUZUMIYA-SAN.

EVEN IF SHE SAYS NO, I'M STILL COMING OVER!

I'VE DECIDED. I'M GOING TO KEEP MAKING DINNERS FOR YUKI UNTIL SHE GETS BETTER.

TA (DASH)

I'M SUSPENDING SOS BRIGADE ACTIVITIES FOR A WHILE.

OKAY!

I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU TOMORROW TOO, MIKURU-CHAN.

UUUU (WHRRR)

UNTIL YUKI STARTS COMING TO SCHOOL AGAIN, I'LL BE COMING HERE INSTEAD.

THE ONLY PERSON AMONG MY NEW ACQUAIN-TANCES WHOSE PHONE NUMBER I KNEW.

THERE WAS SOMEONE I HAD TO CONTACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

NO— SOME-THING ONLY I COULD DO.

THERE WAS SOME-THING I COULD DO TOO.

I'm willing to bet they'll come.

I'll call the other three too of course

I dare say they've been waiting for you to contact me.

I got your mes sage

To-morrow after noon after school, right?

Sorry Kyon.

It took me a while to get back to you

Well, see you tomor-row.

Good night, my friend.

They're probably counting on you being mad, after all.

I mean, I have no idea, but

I can tell you're pretty mad about some-thing.

It would probably be best if you calm down a little

α—8

CHUN
CHUN (CHIRP)
THE NEXT DAY. TUESDAY.
CHI (TWEE)
CHI

SOMETHING FELT ODD.
TA (STEP)
IT WAS STRANGE.

PUAAA
PA CHONKO
PA
PA
KIRIN
WHATEVER KUYOH SUOH OR THAT LOUSY TIME TRAVELER WERE PLANNING...
I HADN'T HAD ANY CONTACT WITH SASAKI SINCE OUR RANDOM ENCOUNTER.

FIRST I HAD TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO THE BRIGADE CHIEF.
...THINKING ABOUT IT WASN'T GOING TO GET ME ANYWHERE.
CHUN
CHUN
...HM.

I ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS.

ANYWAY, HOW ARE YOU?

HEY.

YOU SEEM LIKE SOMEONE WHO HAS SOME-THING ON HIS MIND.

GOOD MORN-ING.

WHICH COMES AS QUITE A RELIEF TO ME.

CLOSED SPACE INCIDENTS WERE ONCE FREQUENT, BUT THEY'VE SUDDENLY STOPPED.

YES, ABOUT THAT.

YOU REALLY ARE A SIMPLE GIRL.

GEEZ, HARUHI.

...THAT SHE'S TEMPORARILY FORGOTTEN TO MANIFEST HER SUB-CONSCIOUS STRESS.

IT SEEMS SUZUMIYA-SAN IS SO OCCUPIED WITH RECRUITING NEW FRESHMEN ...

THEY'RE JUST GONNA TURN INTO HARUHI'S TOYS.

I FEEL BAD FOR THE FRESHMEN.

KO (CLICK)

SHE MAY SEEM SIMPLE, BUT SHE'S QUITE COMPLEX.

STILL, I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED THERE WOULD BE SO MANY APPLICANTS TO JOIN THE BRIGADE.

KO

WE HAVEN'T SEEN THEM HAVING A FUNCTIONAL COALITION SO FAR.

I'M NOT SURE YET.

KO

KUYOH, KYOKO TACHIBANA, THAT TIME TRAVELER GUY..

ANYWAY, IS IT REALLY A GOOD IDEA TO JUST LEAVE THE BAD GUYS ALONE?

CHUN (CHIRP)

チュン

CHI (TWEE)

チチチ…

CHI

CHI

YOU CAN PROBABLY FIND THEM OUT MORE QUICKLY THAN I COULD.

THEY'RE VAGUE AND HARD TO GUESS AT.

HIS GOALS ARE NEITHER SO CLEAR AS KYOKO TACHIBANA'S, NOR ARE THEY AS UNFATHOMABLE AS THE ALIEN'S.

チュン: CHUN

IT'S LIKELY THE KEY FIGURE IS THE TIME TRAVELER.

I HAD THE FEELING THAT SHE WOULD DEFINITELY COME BACK

SHE WAS THE ONE THAT WORRIED ME.

THE QUESTION WAS, HOW MANY BRIGADE HOPEFULS WOULD REMAIN?

...HARUHI WASN'T LOOKING FOR OUTWARD FLASHINESS THIS TIME.

KON

KON

KON

KON (TAP)

KON

KON

SHE DIDN'T LOOK THAT STRANGE, BUT...

BUT PROBABLY NOT.

MAYBE THERE WOULD BE SOMEONE WHO COULD SHARE THE MENIAL LABOR I DID.

SHE'S REALLY FIDGETY, ISN'T SHE.

KON

KON

KON

SHE WANTED STUDENTS WHOSE INNATE QUALITIES SHONE THROUGH.

YOU BET I WAS.

I NAILED THAT MATH TEST.

YOU WERE TOTALLY RIGHT ABOUT WHAT WAS GONNA BE ON IT.

キーン
KIIN (DING)
KOON (DONG)

I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU.

I DECIDED TO DO WORLD HISTORY, SO YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME.

PI (JAB)

SO WHAT ARE YOU CHOOSING FOR YOUR HUMANITIES ELECTIVE?

MAN! YOU'RE FULL OF YOURSELF

I FIGURE WE'LL SHOW UP ABOUT HALF AN HOUR LATE.

THE HEADLINER IS ALWAYS LAST, AFTER ALL.

ANYWAY, AREN'T THE NEW RECRUITS GOING TO BE IN THE CLUB ROOM SOON?

"TREATY OF WESTPHALIA" SOUNDS WAY BETTER THAN "LAWS FOR THE MILITARY HOUSES."

YOU LEARN WAY BETTER VOCABULARY THERE.

YOU'RE GONNA GET YELLED AT

I GUESS.

YEAH. I KNOW. I KNOW.

ALTHOUGH MAKING THE BRIGADE CHIEF WAIT DEFINITELY DESERVES PUNISHMENT.

THAT MEANS YOU!

GEEZ!

HAVING TO WAIT IS PART OF THE TEST.

EEEEEEE

YOU'RE A BRIGADE MEMBER, SO I'LL EVEN WAIVE MY TUTORING FEE.

HEY, DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.

WHILE WE'RE KILLING TIME, I'LL HELP YOU REVIEW WORLD HISTORY.

HE WAS SMART ENOUGH TO INVENT A TIME MACHINE.

THERE WAS THAT LITTLE PRO-FESSOR SHE WAS TUTORING AND ALL.

SHE HAD TO BE GOOD.

YEAH, YEAH, I GET IT, YOU'RE A GOOD TEACHER.

I ADMIT IT.

...SHE WAS VERY MOTI-VATED. I WAS GRATE-FUL.

WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS HER PRIDE AS BRIGADE CHIEF AND CONCERN FOR HER SUBORDI-NATES...

I BET THE FRESH-MEN ARE SHOWING UP RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

SHU (SHP)

SO... THAT'S ABOUT IT.

SHE'D MAKE A GREAT COM-MANDING OFFICER.

AND TO MAKE IT INTER-ESTING WAS SERI-OUSLY IMPRES-SIVE.

HELLO THERE!

I WONDERED IF IT WOULD GO THAT WELL.

IF IT WERE ZERO, I COULD GET BACK TO MY NORMAL LIFE.

TA (TAP) TA

AA...

LET'S REALLY BUST IN THERE.

MY INTUITION TELLS ME THERE'LL BE ABOUT SIX OF THEM LEFT.

SHE WAS SPOT ON.

THREE BOYS, THREE GIRLS ...

HELLO!

THIS YEAR'S FRESHMEN ARE PROMISING INDEED!

GOSO (RUSTLE)

I WAS SURE ONLY ONE IN TEN WOULD COME BACK, BUT...

LISTEN UP!

THERE WERE SERIOUSLY THAT MANY LEFT? THIS WAS GOING TO BE COMPLICATED.

IT'S A WRITTEN TEST!

PAN (POW)

I NOW PROCLAIM THE SECOND PHASE OF THE SOS BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAMI-NATION OPEN!

IT'S MORE OF A PERSONALITY TEST OR SURVEY.

KO

ｺﾞ"

ｺﾞ"
KO

ｺﾞ"
KO
(CLICK)

DON'T WORRY, THERE'S NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS.

IT WON'T BE SHARED WITH ANYBODY ELSE, NOT EVEN BRIGADE MEMBERS.

I'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION.

I DON'T LIKE HOW THEY SEEM TO SEE RIGHT THROUGH THAT

HEH HEH!

IT WILL BE USED FOR REFERENCE, THOUGH.

IT WON'T DIRECTLY AFFECT YOUR ACCEPTANCE.

MAN, YOU'RE BOSSY

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SHORT ON CHAIRS. GO GET SOME.

TA
(DASH)
TA

SO KYON, KOIZUMI-KUN, AND MIKURU-CHAN, YOU SHOULD ALL LEAVE THE ROOM FOR A BIT.

OH, YUKI CAN STAY.

CHAIRS, HUH?

MAYBE I CAN GET 'EM FROM THE COMPUTER CLUB...

OH, SURE.

KURU (FWIP)

I'LL PUT SOME TEA ON.

I ALMOST WASTED A BUNCH OF TIME.

GEEZ, MAN.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO BEFORE WE GOT KICKED OUT?

ZORO (ORDERED)

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR CHAIRS, I'VE ALREADY COLLECTED SOME.

I'M RATHER INTERESTED TO KNOW.

CHA (CHAK)

JUST WHAT DID YOU AND SUZUMIYA-SAN USE THAT TIME FOR?

I DON'T THINK IT'S NECES-SARILY A WASTE.

WE WAITED FOR A FULL HALF HOUR BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP.

PAN (CLAP) ぱん ぱん PAN

SHE JUST WANTED TO BE FASHION-ABLY LATE.

SHE WAS PURPOSE-FULLY WAITING FOR THE FRESHMEN TO ARRIVE.

キィ (KII) (CREAK)

NOTHING HAP-PENED.

THERE'S NO POINT IN MAKING IT SOUND SO SUS-PICIOUS.

IT'S AS THOUGH SHE'S POURING OUT HER HEART JUST TO BE ABLE TO WAIT FOR YOU.

HEH HEH...

I WONDER.

SHE'S NEVER LATE FOR OUR TRAIN STATION RENDEZVOUS.

I WON-DER.

WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF YOU, SHE WON'T JUST MAKE YOU PAY FOR EVERYTHING.

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A TRY?

THAT'S JUST HER BEING STUBBORN. AND MAKING ME TREAT EVERYBODY.

I DON'T RECALL SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT A DATE.

BUT THAT WOULD BE JUST FINE.

HEY.

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME TO ASK HARUHI OUT ON A DATE.

LOOKING AT ME LIKE A MOTHER HEN LIKE THAT.

HE REALLY PISSED ME OFF.

KYON!

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE IMPLYING SOMETHING

COULDN'T YOU FIND ANY CHAIRS?

...IF THAT'S YOUR WISH.

IF THAT EVER HAP-PENS, I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU.

YOU BETTER DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SNAP ME OUT OF IT.

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.

SO THIS IS THE TEST, HUH?

PERA (FLIP)

LET'S SEE, HERE...

SOS BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAM

Grade Class Name

1. Explain the reasoning behind your ambition to join the SOS Brigade.

2. If you are admitted, in what way can you contribute?

3. Of aliens, time travelers, sliders, and espers, which do you think is best?

4. Why?

5. Explain any mysterious phenomena you have experienced.

6. What's your favorite pithy phrase?

7. If you could do anything, what would you do?

8. Final question: Express your enthusiasm.

PS: If you can bring along anything really interesting, you get extra credit. Please try to find something.

BEGIN!

BA (WHAP)

YOU'VE GOT THIRTY MIN-UTES!

USE THE BACK IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE!

NO LIMIT ON ANSWER LENGTH!

BI (FLICK)

BAN (BAM)

KEEP OUT!!

KEEP OUT!!

GO, HURRY, OUT!

OH, AND STICK THIS ON THE DOOR.

IT'S JUST AS SUZUMIYA-SAN SAID.

IT'S A SORT OF SURVEY.

WHAT KIND OF EXAM QUESTIONS ARE THESE ANYWAY?

SHE'S GOING TO USE THE CONTENT OF THE ANSWERS TO DETERMINE THEIR CAPACITY FOR SPECULATION.

THIS IS A COGNITION TEST. A PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION.

Of aliens, time travelers, sliders, and espers, which do you think is best?

I'M RATHER INTERESTED IN QUESTION THREE.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

HEY.

I WONDER. I THINK SHE'S GOING TO USE IT AS A SERIOUS TEST.

STILL... HOW'RE YOU SUPPOSED TO ANSWER THESE?

SEEMS NOT.

CHAPU (SPLISH) チャプ

OH, CAN WE NOT GO BACK IN?

THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD IDEA, COMING FROM YOU.

I CAN AT LEAST TREAT YOU ALL TO SOME COFFEE.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD GO TO THE CAFE-TERIA.

GYA ガヤ

GYA (CHATTER) ガヤガヤ

学生食堂

WHAT KIND OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATION IS SHE USING?

うどん・そば

ラーメン

おまかせA

デザート

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHE'S ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR.

THIS KIND.

SIGNS: STUDENT CAFETERIA, DESSERT, SET MEAL A, RAMEN, UDON/SOBA

I WOULDN'T WASTE TOO MUCH TIME OVER-THINKING IT.

HMM ...

IT SEEMS SORT OF ABSTRACT ...

WE SHOULD APPRECIATE THESE THIRTY UNINTER-RUPTED MINUTES WE HAVE.

THIS COMBI-NATION OF THE THREE OF US, I MEAN.

STILL, THIS IS A RARE EVENT.

ONE THAT'S GOOD FOR LOTS OF PLAYERS, TO LIVEN THINGS UP, MAYBE.

SO THERE WAS A BOARD GAME I WAS THINKING ABOUT BUYING...

I GUESS.

WE SHOULD!

AND MAYBE A SIMPLE ONE WOULD BE NICE...

おまかせ

OH, WHAT A GOOD IDEA!

JUST BEING ABLE TO HAVE SOME NORMAL, MEANINGLESS SMALL TALK.

IT WAS A PRETTY RARE EVENT.

IF ONLY FOR HALF AN HOUR.

ALL THE MORE PRECIOUS FOR ITS ORDINARINESS.

I COULDN'T IMAGINE THE SOS BRIGADE GETTING ANOTHER MEMBER.

IT WAS TIMES LIKE THIS I REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

THERE WERE THINGS IN THE WORLD THAT NEVER CHANGED.

WHO WAS IT WHO HAD SAID CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT?

I FELT LIKE I WANTED TO ARGUE THE POINT WITH THEM.

STILL, BRINGING IN NEW FRESHMEN...

BUT I WAS SURE HARUHI HAD THOUGHT ABOUT THAT A LOT MORE THAN I HAD.

THE SENIORS WOULD BE GRADUATING IN ANOTHER YEAR.

I COULDN'T HELP BUT BE A LITTLE SAD.

THIS IS IT FOR THE WRITTEN EXAM. I TOLD THEM ALL TO COME BACK HERE TOMORROW, PASS OR FAIL.

THEY WENT HOME.

KO (CLICK)

HEY, WHERE ARE THE FRESH-MEN?

BUT IF THEY CAME UP WITH INTERESTING THINGS TO SAY, I'LL TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT.

PERA

PERA (FLIP)

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MAKING A HASTY DECISION JUST BASED ON THIS TEST.

KO

THE UN-MOTIVATED ONES JUST WON'T COME BACK TOMORROW.

TON (TAP) TON

TAKING THE TEST IS ITSELF PART OF THE TEST.

I'M TESTING THEIR ENDU-RANCE.

THAT'S NOT FAIR TO THEM.

SO THIS IS JUST FOR FUN?

DON'T BE STUPID. OBVIOUSLY I'M THINKING ABOUT IT.

GI (CREAK)

I'LL PASS.

DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWERS, I'LL CONSIDER GIVING YOU A PROMOTION.

TEE HEE!

A BRIGADE CHIEF INTERVIEW.

HEY, YOU WANT TO TRY ONE NOW?

TON

PUI (FWIP)

NO WAY.

C'MON.

I WANT TO SEE WHAT KIND OF THINGS THOSE LITTLE FRESHMEN CAME UP WITH.

HARUHI, LEMME SEE THEIR ANSWERS.

...HM.

I WON'T DENY THAT I'M CURIOUS, BUT...

ESPECIALLY NOT JUST TO SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY!

I HAVE TO RESPECT THEIR PRIVACY.

I CAN'T JUST GO SHOWING THEIR ANSWERS AROUND.

HAD THAT GIRL COME TODAY?

WERE ALL SIX OF TODAY'S FRESHMEN IN YESTERDAY'S GROUP?

ONE OF THEM MIGHT HAVE COME FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY... NO.

STRANGE... I DON'T REMEMBER.

?

LIKE I CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS ...

WEIRD.

SOMETHING IS WEIGHING ON MY MIND.

"NOTH-ING?" IS THAT WHAT SHE MEANS?

SO LONG AS NAGATO WAS IN THE CLUB ROOM ABSORBED IN A BOOK, THE WORLD WAS SAFE.

THAT'S ALL IT TOOK TO PUT ME AT EASE.

...THIS PAGE WOULD REMAIN WITHIN ALL OF US, FOREVER.

AND THIS MOMENT TOO...

I'D NEVER HAVE TO LOOK AT A PICTURE TO REMEMBER THE FIVE OF US.

MY MEMORIES OF THE PAST WOULDN'T CHANGE.

I HAD TO FEEL SORRY FOR THE POOR FRESHMEN WHO'D COME BY THE SOS BRIGADE OUT OF RANDOM CURIOSITY, BUT IT WAS NICE OF THEM TO AMUSE HARUHI.

THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE.

I'D BE SURPRISED IF THEY WERE THAT ENERGETIC, BUT...

IF IT WAS POSSIBLE, MAYBE THREE OF THEM COULD RETURN TOMORROW.

I FELT LIKE I HAD THE LUXURY OF FEELING THAT WAY...

...AT THE TIME.

STILL, THAT WOULD BE FUN IN AND OF ITSELF.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA III : END

β—8

CHUN (CHIRP)

IT WAS A DEPRESSING MORNING.

THE NEXT DAY, TUESDAY.

CHUN

THE FIRST STEP ...

...WOULD BE ARTICULATING TO HARUHI JUST HOW GLUM I FELT.

THERE WAS A PROBLEM I HAD TO SOLVE.

SO I HAD TO DO SOMETHING.

I WASN'T GOING TO RELY ON ANYONE ELSE TO DO SOMETHING THAT ONLY I COULD DO.

CHUN

PI (TWEE) PII

CHUN

IN SHORT, I WAS AFRAID THAT SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME WAS GOING TO DISAPPEAR.

The Surprise of Haruhi Suzumiya IV

I OWED NAGATO QUITE A BIT SO FAR.

I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD CRACK THIS SITU-ATION, SHORT OF HARUHI.

JUST HANG IN THERE, NAGATO— WE'LL HELP YOU GET BETTER.

IF I DIDN'T PAY HER BACK NOW, IT WOULD REFLECT BADLY ON ALL OF HUMAN-ITY.

THIS WAS GOING TO BE A LONG DAY.

FIRST WE'D GO AFTER THE HEAV-ENLY CANOPY DO-MAIN...

THEN WE'D DEAL WITH THE TIME TRAV-ELER.

YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY.

THAT'S CUTTING IT CLOSE.

I THOUGHT I'D MAKE HER BREAK-FAST.

I WENT TO CHECK ON YUKI.

FUU (HUFF)

ATTEN-TION.

GATA- (CLATTER)

BOW.

KOON (DING)

KAAN (DONG)

STAND ...

SFX: GARA (SLIDE)

HER FEVER DIDN'T SEEM TOO BAD.

I GUESS GETTING PLENTY OF REST IS STILL THE BEST THING FOR HER.

KI (CREAK)

SHE WAS SLEEP-ING.

I DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE HER UP, SO I JUST FIXED BREAK-FAST AND LEFT.

HOW WAS SHE?

YUKI?

WHEN I SAW YUKI SLEEPING, I JUST WANTED TO, LIKE ...

... GATHER HER UP AND HUG HER.

NOT IN LIKE A WEIRD WAY.

IT FEELS LIKE IF I DON'T, SHE'LL JUST DISAPPEAR.

I KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE, BUT STILL.

LOOKED LIKE SHE FELT THE SAME WAY I DID.

A HEALTHY NAGATO... SOMETHING ABOUT THE PHRASE WAS STRANGE, BUT...

...SHE BELONGED IN THE LITERATURE CLUB ROOM, NOT IN A BED.

OH, OKAY.

I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO NAGATO'S TODAY.

HEY, ABOUT THAT.

I GUESS THERE IS THAT TO CON-SIDER TOO...

HMM ... YEAH ...

WELL, THAT'S FINE.

MIKURU-CHAN AND I CAN MAKE DINNER.

I'M SURE SHE'LL BE FINE. IT'S ONLY A LITTLE COLD.

WE'LL GIVE HER A SPONGE BATH INSTEAD OF PUTTING HER IN THE TUB.

YOU AND KOIZUMI-KUN SHOULDN'T COME TODAY.

...I JUST CAN'T IGNORE THIS SIT-UATION.

FUMU (HMM)

I FEEL A LITTLE BAD LEAVING RESPON-SIBILITY TO THE LIEUTENANT BRIGADE CHIEF, BUT THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

I'LL HAVE TO TELL KOIZUMI-KUN TOO.

KUI (JERK)

KUI

WHAT'RE YOU WHIS-PERING ABOUT SO SERI-OUSLY WITH SUZU-MIYA THERE?

FINALLY GONNA START FILING JOINTLY, EH? YOU TRAITOR!

NU (LOOM)

HEYA, KYON.

SHE WAS BEING PRETTY CRYPTIC. OH WELL.

SHE'D ACCEPTED MY HEAVY-HEARTED REQUEST, ANYWAY.

ALL IN DUE TIME, MY FRIEND.

FIRST COMES GOLDEN WEEK. I'M GONNA PICK UP A PART-TIME JOB, SEE WHERE THAT GOES...

YOU'RE CON-STANTLY BREAKING THE WORLD RECORD, EASY!

YOU'RE ABOUT THE ONLY GUY IN THE WORLD WHO COULD GO OUT WITH SUZUMIYA FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR.

ANY NEW FRESH-MEN YOU'RE GONNA MAKE A PASS AT?

SO WHAT ABOUT YOU, HUH?

ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE!

PESHI (SMACK)

MORON

DAN (DUMB)

GOOD OLD TANI-GUCHI.

I WAS GLAD HE WAS STILL IN MY CLASS.

GETTING TO HAVE IDIOTIC CONVER-SATIONS LIKE THIS WAS GOOD FOR ME.

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN WHY, THOUGH.

START WITH THE SECOND ONE, THEN.

I HAVE THINGS TO RE-PORT.

THE FIRST IS GOOD NEWS.

THE SECOND IS NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD.

SUZUMIYA-SAN HAS ORDERED ME TO STAY ON ALERT IN THE CLUB ROOM.

SHE HAS EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

EVEN WHILE CARING FOR NAGATO-SAN, SHE HASN'T FORGOTTEN THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW CLUB MEMBERS.

SHE'S MUCH CALMER THAN YOU ARE.

THE "NEW MEMBERS WANTED" POSTING IS STILL UP, AFTER ALL.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, I'M ROOM SIT-TING.

BUT YES, YOU'RE RIGHT IN A WAY.

I'M MERELY STATING MY IMPRES-SIONS.

IF YOU'RE ATTEMPTING SARCASM, YOU SHOULD BE MORE OBVIOUS ABOUT IT.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A COMPLIMENT?

ANYONE WHO DISAGREES WITH YOU GETS LABELED AN ENEMY.

THAT'S HOW RIGHT YOU ARE.

IN FACT, YOU MIGHT BE TOO RIGHT.

THEY HAVE STOPPED APPEAR-ING ENTIRELY.

REGARDING THE CLOSED SPACE AND CELESTIALS THAT'S SHOWING UP EVERY NIGHT...

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS.

OBVIOUSLY THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM WITH NAGATO-SAN.

THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT.

AND A SIGNIFICANT LOAD OFF MY SHOUL-DERS.

...BUT THERE'S ANOTHER THING I, PERSON-ALLY, FEEL I SHOULD SAY.

ALSO, I DIDN'T PLAN ON THIS...

BUT SHE'S NOT IRRITATED PER SE.

SUZUMIYA-SAN IS WORRIED ABOUT NAGATO-SAN.

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, YOU ARE BEING TOO CONSIDERATE OF NAGATO-SAN.

ESPECIALLY SINCE WINTER VACATION.

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

IF YOU WORRY ABOUT HER TO THE EXCLUSION OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS, YOU'RE MISPLACING YOUR PRIORITIES.

YOU'RE SAYING SHE'S SOME KIND OF MINOR DETAIL?

NOT AT ALL.

PLEASE, THINK ABOUT THIS.

INTERACTION WITH ANOTHER EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE-FORM IS WHAT'S CAUSING NAGATO-SAN'S PRESENT CONDITION.

FLASH

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE SOME OTHER FACTION WON'T TRY TO USE THIS CONFLICT.

TIME TRAVELERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE PAST.

BUT ASAHINA-SAN DOES NOT SEEM TO.

BUT WHAT DOES THAT IGNORANCE IMPLY?

THAT'S ONE THING THAT MAKES HER UNIQUE.

CON-SIDER THIS ...

... WOULDN'T THAT BE THE PERFECT TIME FOR THEM TO ACT?

IF THEY KNEW NAGATO-SAN WAS GOING TO BE FORCIBLY SIDELINED...

FROM THE TIME TRAV-ELERS' PERSPEC-TIVE, SHE'S THE PERFECT DECOY FOR US IN THE PAST.

SO WHAT'S HE PLAN-NING?

NOW THAT NAGATO'S DOWN, IT'S FUJIWARA'S CHANCE, HUH?

AND SHE'S THE ONE THE TIME TRAVELER LEAST WANTS INTERFERING.

SHE'S THE SOS BRIGADE'S MOST POWERFUL ASSET, AND SHE'S WON YOUR TRUST ABOVE ALL OTHERS.

...MORE LIKE A LOW-PROBA-BILITY GUESS ON MY PART, BUT...

ALSO, THIS ISN'T A RE-PORT ...

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.

THAT I DON'T KNOW.

I WAS VAGUELY HOPING YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THAT.

WHAT IF THEY'VE DISAPPEARED IN ORDER TO BUILD UP ENERGY RESERVES FOR SOMETHING YET TO COME?

WE MAY HAVE SERIOUSLY MISUNDER-STOOD THE SITUATION.

CELESTIALS HAVE STOPPED APPEARING, WHICH IS CURIOUS.

...IT IS ADMITTEDLY SOMETHING I'M WORRIED ABOUT.

IT'S PROBABLY A BASELESS WORRY, BUT...

I CAN'T RID MYSELF OF THAT SUSPI-CION.

HEYA, KYON.

DID YOU WAIT LONG?

I JUST WANTED TO BE SURE OF MY OWN ACTIONS.

IT HAD BEEN LIKE THAT BEFORE NOW, BUT STILL.

SHAAAAAAA (WSHHHHH)

THERE WERE LOTS OF THINGS ABOUT THIS SITUATION THAT WERE UNCLEAR.

NEITHER KIMIDORI-SAN NOR ASAKURA WERE GOING TO COME IN AND INTER-VENE.

I WASN'T GOING TO HAVE ANYONE TO CALL FOR BACKUP.

OH REALLY?

THIS WAS EARTH, AND IT BELONGED TO EARTH-LINGS LIKE ME.

THIS WAS GOING TO BE THE DECI-SIVE BATTLE.

EVERY-THING DE-PEND-ED ON HOW SMOOTH I COULD TALK

KARA (RATTLE) カラ

NOT REALLY.

KARA カラ

KARA カラ

SIGN: DREAM

...THAT WAS WHY I'D COME.

AND OF COURSE ...

WELL, SHALL WE GO?

OVER HERE!

DON'T NEED IT, REALLY.

YOU HAVE MY GRATI-TUDE.

THANK YOU, SASAKI-SAN...

...FOR BRINGING HIM ALONG.

OTHERWISE OUR LIVES WOULD'VE BEEN PERFECTLY PARALLEL LINES.

AM I WRONG?

EVEN IF I HADN'T BROUGHT HIM, WE WOULD'VE HAD TO ENCOUNTER HIM EVEN-TUALLY.

SHE WAS MORE PERVERSE THAN ME AND MORE PRACTICAL THAN HARUHI.

SASAKI REALLY WAS MY FRIEND.

I REALIZED IT ANEW.

HMPH.

SASAKI'S NOT GONNA BE EASY TO PERSUADE.

I FEEL BAD FOR HER CHOSEN OPPONENTS.

THERE'S TOO GREAT A DIFFERENCE IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US.

THESE CONVERSATIONS ARE A WASTE OF TIME.

IT'S A WARNING.

YOU'D DO WELL NOT TO THINK TOO HIGHLY OF YOURSELVES.

THIS ISN'T ADVICE.

THE ALIEN TERMINAL WHO'D DO WHATEVER YOU TOLD HER IS OUT OF COMMIS-SION.

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO LOSE YOUR MOST POWERFUL SHIELD?

SO LET'S HEAR WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO NEXT, EH?

NOW, KYON.

THAT'S GOING TOO FAR..

YOU SON OF A—

GATAN GTHUNK

BUT WHEN I DO, I SCARE EVEN MYSELF.

I ONLY GET ANGRY ABOUT ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS.

I'M FAIRLY MILD-TEMPERED MYSELF.

I CAN'T JUST SIT BY AND LET YOU GET VIOLENT.

THAT GOES FOR ALL OF YOU TOO.

KO COLLINK

...

THE LAST TIME I LOST MY TEMPER WAS JUST ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO.

I HOPE YOU'LL HELP ME KEEP THE STREAK ALIVE.

KARAN (CLINK)

UH, KUYOH-SAN?

KATA (SHAKE)

YES-TER-DAY

ER ...

I'LL HEAR ABOUT THAT LATER.

THESE ARE.

KATA

KATA

KATA

KATA

WORDS OF GRATI-TUDE

THANK YOU.

BUT WE LACKED THE POWER NECESSARY TO OPPOSE KOIZUMI-SAN AND HIS GROUP.

IN FACT, SOONER WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER.

IT'S CLEAR THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED SOONER OR LATER.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY.

THIS MEETING IS VERY IMPOR-TANT.

YOU MAY NOT REGARD ME AS A COMRADE, BUT YOU CAN WORK WITH ME AND FIGHT BY MY SIDE, RIGHT?

PAA (BEAM)

...

BUT I'VE FINALLY ASSEMBLED THE POWER...

...THE POWER TO MOVE THE WORLD.

LET'S START BY HEARING THAT, SHALL WE?

PLEASE, GO AHEAD

THE REASON WE'VE ASSEM-BLED TODAY...

...IS THAT THROUGH SASAKI-SAN, WE'VE HEARD YOUR PROPOSAL.

BUT WHAT-EVER IT IS...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT YOU'RE DOING.

AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME.

IT'S ABOUT NAGA-TO.

FRIN-GES ...

...OF GAL-AXY ...

IF YOU ALIENS WANT TO FIGHT, GO DO IT ON THE FRINGES OF THE GALAXY.

...STOP THIS RIDIC-ULOUS ATTACK ON NAGATO!

...THAT IS HERE.

VERY RARE.

THIS STAR'S LOCA-TION.

SO CONCLUDE IT!

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!

.. MAY DO SO.

WHEN BUSI-NESS CON-CLU-DED

YES, LET'S.

HEH.

IN ANY CASE, I SEE YOU WON'T ALLOW THAT DOLL OF YOURS TO MALFUNC-TION.

BUT I'LL RESTRAIN MY CURI-OSITY FOR NOW.

WHY IS IT THAT YOU'RE SO LOYAL TO THIS YUKI NAGATO?

YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH NERVE TO PICK A FIGHT WITH AN EXTRATER-RESTRIAL INTELLI-GENCE...

...EVEN IF YOUR BRAVERY IS BORNE OF IGNOR-ANCE.

THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN'S INTER-FERENCE WITH YOUR TERMINAL CAN BE STOPPED.

BY ME.

DON'T BELIEVE ME?

WELL, IT'S THE TRUTH.

THEY ACCEPTED OUR PROPOSAL QUITE READILY.

OH, AND BY THE WAY...

...THIS REP-RESENTS THE CONSENSUS OF ALL THREE OF US.

THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN IS FAR EASIER TO CONTROL THAN THE DATA OVERMIND.

...HMM, FUJI-WARA-KUN.

TRANSFER ALL OF HARUHI SUZU-MIYA'S POWER TO SASAKI.

YOUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO AGREE.

THAT WAS PROPOSED THE OTHER DAY TOO.

EVEN IF THE GOAL IS THE SAME, IF THE PATH TO IT IS DIFFERENT, THE NECESSARY DEVELOPMENTS ALSO CHANGE.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

I STILL DON'T CARE.

AT THE TIME, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T CARE WHO HAD THE POWER?

THAT'S JUST SOPHIST-RY.

IT SOUNDS LIKE AN EXCUSE TO ME.

OR IF IT'S NOT, THIS IS JUST AN ACT.

HM? AH, I SEE.

CLAIMING THAT YOU DON'T CARE IS A LIE.

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT IT WOULD BE INCONVENIENT FOR YOU IF SUZUMIYA-SAN RETAINS HER POWER?

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT YOU WANT TO TAKE SUZU-MIYA-SAN'S MYSTE-RIOUS POWER FROM HER?

THERE MUST BE SOME REASON SHE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO HAVE IT.

THE FACT THAT I'M HERE IS JUST A COINCI-DENCE.

SO IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ME.

IT JUST HAS TO BE ANYONE BESIDES SUZUMIYA-SAN.

PON (SMACK)

LIKE THE FACT THAT I WAS KYON'S FRIEND IN THE PAST.

BUT SOME THINGS CAN'T BE MERE COINCI-DENCE.

SO, MISTER TIME TRAVELER, HOW MUCH OF THIS IS A FIXED EVENT?

AND SHE'S NOT EVEN PART OF SOME CRAZY ORGANIZATION LIKE KOIZUMI IS...

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW FAST HER MIND WORKS!

HUH?

AM I, KYOKO TACHI-BANA?

I'M NOT LYING.

AM I SUPPOSE TO FEEL CHAS-TISED?

ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE THE ONE THAT PUT HER UP TO IT?

NOW WAIT JUST A SECOND. KUYOH'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR NAGATO'S CONDITION, RIGHT?

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE COOPERATED.

ER, THAT'S RIGHT.

THIS IS AT MY REQUEST.

FIXED PAST EVENTS, WHEN VIEWED FROM THE FUTURE, HAVE NOTHING MORE THAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE.

TAN (SLAM)

THAT DOESN'T MATTER!

THE RESULT IS PRECISELY THE SAME!

BAN (BAM)

WHO CREATED THIS STAGE?

THAT DOESN'T MATTER!

IS IT THIS FUJIWARA GUY?

IS IT THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN?

OR IS IT KYOKO TACHIBANA...?

...JUST HOW DENSE ARE YOU?

DAMMIT... JUST WHAT IS HE TRYING TO SAY?

WHO'S THE REAL MASTERMIND?

WHY DO YOU GET TO MAKE THAT CALL, EXACTLY?

I THOUGHT THEY WERE SOME KIND OF EXTRA-WHATEVER LIFE-FORM THAT NOBODY COULD COMMUNICATE WITH!

YOU WANT YUKI NAGATO TO RECOVER ...

...AND I'M TELLING YOU I CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

DON'T SCREW WITH ME...!

LET'S JUST SAY IT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

BA (BAM)

LIKE I'D BELIEVE YOU!

WHAT "FAVOR" !?

YOU THINK I'M JOKING?

I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR EVEN TELLING YOU THIS.

...I WILL EXECUTE ORDER...

SOME-BODY WANNA TRANS-LATE THAT FOR ME?

SOMEBODY TURN A FLASHLIGHT ON!

HAS EVERYTHING TURNED TO CHAOS?

INDIRECT VOCAL CONTACT WITH TERMINALS WAS NOISE.

DIRECT CONTACT IMPOS-SIBLE.

FAIL NG TO INSTANTLY STOP EQUIVA-LENT TO ETERNITY.

WASTE OF ENERGY.

MUTUAL CONCEPT TRANS-MISSION OVER-LOADED.

THAT IS ALSO A POS-SIBLE BRANCH.

WILL CANCEL INTER-FERENCE AND SEEK ALTER-NATE METHOD.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA IV : END

AND FUJIWARA-KUN ...

BUT SHE'S DETERMINED THAT THE ACTION SHE'S TAKING IS INEFFECTIVE.

IF FUJIWARA-KUN SAYS THE WORD, SHE'LL STOP IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT SHE MEANS ...

...IS THAT NAGATO-SAN'S CONDITION IS HER FAULT.

β—8

...IS MAKING THAT A CONDITION OF TRANSFERRING SUZUMIYA-SAN'S POWERS TO ME.

...YES.

The Surprise of Haruhi Suzumiya V

NO, ER...

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY ...

ズ" ZU (SIP) ズ" ZU

TACHIBANA WANTS TO WORSHIP SASAKI AS A GOD, APPARENTLY.

WE WANT TO SEE THE SITUATION CHANGE IN A WAY THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE HERE.

BUT THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE WITH THE DATA OVERMIND PRESENT.

SHE'S BEING GUARDED.

BUT THERE IS A WAY TO BREAK THROUGH.

KUYOH'S FACTION WISHES TO STUDY HARUHI SUZUMIYA ...

KO (THINK)

KUYOH WILL DO IT.

ZU (SIP) ZU

AND JUST WHO IN THE WORLD CAN DO THAT?

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT UNKNOWN POWER.

WE NEED ONLY TRANSFER IT TO A THIRD PARTY.

SUZUMIYA HARUHI CAN DO ANYTHING.

HEH HEH...

HEY, C'MON, DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN.

...AND USED TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD REMEMBER.

HER POWERS WERE TAKEN...

AND HER POWERS HAVE BEEN USED BY A THIRD PARTY BEFORE, HAVEN'T THEY?

THESE BASTARDS ...

SO THEY'RE HOLDING NAGATO HOSTAGE, HUH?

AND TO SAVE HER, I HAVE TO TURN HARUHI'S POWERS OVER?

I WISH YOU GUYS WOULD CONSIDER MY OPINION GIVEN THAT I'M THE INTERESTED PARTY HERE.

I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T THINK I REALLY WANT THAT POWER.

AND I WOULDN'T EVEN REALIZE I'D CHANGED.

BUT CHANGING THE WORLD WOULD MEAN CHANGING MYSELF.

THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD...

... THAT'S ONE THING IN AND OF ITSELF.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO A DILEMMA.

BECAUSE I'D LOSE THOSE MEMORIES.

THAT'S A LITTLE HARD TO UNDER-STAND.

I WOULD HAVE AMAZING POWERS ...

...BUT I WOULD NEVER BE AWARE OF THEIR EFFECTS.

THEY DENY IT, OR THEY TRY TO UNDERSTAND IT.

PEOPLE HAVE TWO KINDS OF REACTIONS WHEN THEY ENCOUNTER SOMETHING THEY DON'T UNDER-STAND.

...WHY THEY CAN'T UNDER-STAND SOME-THING.

PEOPLE NEED TO ASK THEM-SELVES ...

EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL WORLD-VIEW.

NEITHER IS PARTIC-ULARLY CORRECT.

...YOU'D NEVER ENCOUNTER ANYTHING ODD OR HAVE TO UNDER-STAND ANYTHING.

IF YOU COULD SIMPLY CONTROL THE WHOLE WORLD...

AND COME UP WITH A SATIS-FYING ANSWER TO THAT QUES-TION.

KARAN (CLANK)

THE ANSWER IS WITHIN ME.

AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RELEASING IT.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU THREE.

AND I DON'T WANT TO EXPLAIN WHY.

...PEOPLE CAN'T CREATE ANYTHING THAT LETS THEM EXCEED THEIR ABILITIES.

WELL, IN THE END...

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHUT UP AND NOD YOUR HEAD.

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT YOU WANT.

EVEN IF I DID HAVE THAT POWER, I DOUBT I'D HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO USE IT.

IT'S ALL JUST SMOKE AND MIRRORS.

THE WORLD, WITH ALL ITS CONTRA-DICTIONS ...

TO BE HONEST, I'VE GIVEN UP ON IT.

AC-TUALLY ...

I JUST DON'T HAVE MANY COMPLAINTS WITH THIS WORLD.

NO AMOUNT OF INDIVIDUALISM CAN CHANGE THAT.

...IS THE RESULT OF EVENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATING EVER SINCE THE EMERGENCE OF HUMANITY.

I DON'T THINK ANYONE ELSE COULD EITHER.

AND EVEN IF I DID HAVE THAT POWER, I COULDN'T GUARANTEE THAT I'D BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER.

FOR EXAMPLE...

...CONSIDER THE EARTH AS A SPACESHIP.

HUMANITY HASN'T ADVANCED FAR ENOUGH FOR THAT.

IT MIGHT DECIDE TO EJECT THIS DIVISIVE SPECIES OF PRIMATE INTO SPACE.

WHAT IF THAT SPACESHIP BECAME AWARE OF ITSELF?

BECAUSE GODS ARE AN IDEA CREATED BY HUMANS.

SO LONG AS HUMANS LIVE AS HUMANS, WE CAN'T BECOME GODS.

BEFORE GOD DIED, HE WAS NEVER BORN.

I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BECOME THE MANIFESTATION OF AN ABSTRACT CONCEPT.

AND IN ALL OF RECORDED HISTORY, NO GODS HAVE EVER APPEARED.

MAYBE "ZERO" IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF GOD.

SO GOD'S GRAVE DOESN'T EXIST.

AHA ...

HA HA HA ...

... HA.

KU KU KU...

WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?

HA HA HA...

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA HERE, PAST-DWELLER.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE?

HA HA HA...

HOW ABSURD...

DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE ALL THIS?

YOU THINK A BIT TOO HIGHLY OF YOURSELF, I'D SAY.

I'M NOT KUYOH, BUT IT STILL MAKES ME WANT TO LAUGH.

HA
はは
HA

KU KU...

YOU'RE MERELY A PUPPET.

I'LL ADMIT YOU MOVE WELL.

THAT'S NOT EVEN GOOD COMEDY. I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

HA
はは
HA

BUT THAT'S ALL.

はHA
はHA
はHA

HA

YOUR ACTIONS ...

...HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR OWN VOLITION!

はHA
はHA
はHA
はHA

THAT WAS WHY THEY EACH WANTED TO HEAR MY THOUGHTS.

THESE GUYS...

...THEY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT US HUMANS.

I WAS REMINDED AGAIN.

BUT IF KUYOH HAD THAT CHANCE... OR ASAKURA OR KIMIDORI-SAN...

...SHE COULD CRUSH US WHENEVER SHE WANTED.

WHEN HARUHI DISAPPEARED, NAGATO HAD OVERFLOWED WITH HUMANITY...

...WHO STEPS ON THE ANT AT HER FEET, JUST BECAUSE IT'S THERE.

SHE HAD THE INNOCENCE OF A CHILD...

KUYOH'S SMILE MADE HER LOOK LIKE A GIRL WHO'D BEEN GIVEN A NEW TOY.

THIS IS TERRIBLE.

AW, EVERYTHING IS SPOILED NOW.

...THIS IS ALL SUZUMIYA-SAN'S FAULT.

BUT CONSIDER THIS...

PLEASE. I KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT SUZUMIYA-SAN AND THE SOS BRIGADE A LOT.

EVEN IF SUZUMIYA-SAN LOSES HER POWER, IT'S NOT AS THOUGH THE SOS BRIGADE WILL BREAK UP, RIGHT?

NOTHING WILL CHANGE.

IT'S BECAUSE OF HER POWER THAT NAGATO'S ILL.

AND WHY YOU KEEP GETTING SUCKED INTO STRANGE EVENTS.

AND ASAHINA-SAN WILL STILL BE FROM THE FUTURE ...

...BUT THAT WILL BE ALL.

NAGATO-SAN WILL STILL BE AN ALIEN.

KOIZUMI-SAN WILL STILL REPRESENT THE AGENCY.

EVERYONE WILL STILL GET ALONG LIKE THEY ALWAYS HAVE.

YOU'LL STILL BE ABLE TO HAVE FUN WITH YOUR BRIGADE CHIEF.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SUZUMIYA-SAN'S ACTIONS.

SO...

WE'D BARELY QUALIFY AS A SCHOOL INTEREST GROUP.

THAT'S RIGHT.

WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE?

THERE'D BE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ANYMORE.

AND IF YOU STILL WANTED TO EXPERIENCE THE KINDS OF MYSTERIOUS EVENTS YOU'VE ENDURED THUS FAR...

YOU HAVE US.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS THINK OF IT AS EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WITH SASAKI-SAN.

I'M SURE ALL SORTS OF THINGS COULD HAPPEN.

I WAS LITERALLY STRUCK DUMB.

SHE WAS INVITING US TO ORGANIZE A SECOND SOS BRIGADE.

TO REMOVE HARUHI AND INSTALL SASAKI AS THE LEADER OF THE NEWLY REBORN BRIGADE...

HUH?

...I'D LIKE TO LIGHTEN POOR KOIZUMI-SAN'S BURDEN.

ALSO ...

DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

KOIZUMI-SAN CREATED THE AGENCY FROM THE GROUND UP.

I'M SURE HE'D BE QUITE GRATE-FUL.

I MEAN ...

.....

HE MAY NOT SEE EYE-TO-EYE WITH ME, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT RESPECT HIM.

HE'S BEEN THE LEADER FROM THE BEGIN-NING.

HE'S THE NUM-BER ONE GUY.

NO, I COULDN'T GET FLUSTERED.

IT MIGHT BE A BLUFF.

WAS THAT TRUE?

I DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST...

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH TRUTH MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIDING IN KOIZUMI'S LONG-WINDED EXPLANATIONS.

STILL, THERE WAS NO REASON FOR HER TO JUST MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS UP...

OR WAS THERE?

IF SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO CONFUSE ME...

AN EXPLANATION OF SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN TOTALLY IGNORANT OF UNTIL NOW...

...THE TPDD.

HEH.

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE YOU MAY FIND INTERESTING.

=1/1

SHU (SHF) !!!

THERE'S A BIT OF A PROBLEM WITH THE WAY ASAHINA AND I TRAVEL THROUGH TIME.

DO YOU FOLLOW ME SO FAR?

IN OTHER WORDS, WE TRAVEL BY POKING HOLES IN TIME.

THE LENGTHIER THE TIME JUMP BECOMES, THE MORE NUMEROUS THEY ARE.

7° F !!! PUCH! (POKE)

BECAUSE OF THE METHOD WE USE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID PENETRATING THE TIME PLANE.

IT'S LIKE HOW A NEGLECTED LEAK IN A ROOF CAN LEAD TO THE HOUSE'S FRAME ROTTING.

THE HOLES MUST [redacted] FILLED.

BARAA (SCATTER)

THE POINT IS THAT USE OF THE TPDD. IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE RISK OF DESTROYING EXISTING TIME.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT HERSELF, OF COURSE.

MIKURU ASAHINA IS AN EXCEP-TION.

...IS TO REPAIR THOSE DISTOR-TIONS.

THE MAIN DUTY OF TEM-PORAL FIELD AGENTS ...

CONSIDER THIS...

IT'S SUCH A CAREFULLY GUARDED SECRET THAT EVEN SHE WASN'T TOLD OF IT.

HYU (WHIP)

POOR GIRL.

SHE'S BEEN GIVEN A SPECIAL MISSION.

HYU

IT WOULD [redacted] I'D JUST CHANGED YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY. SHALL WE MAKE THIS EVEN MORE INTER-ESTING?

WHAT IF ALL OF WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU WAS ACTUALLY INFORMATION THAT YOU WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO HAVE?

YOU JUST THINK THAT OVER.

DRINK

...I'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO.

ONCE I SEE WHETHER YOUR PRIMITIVE BRAIN CAN COME UP WITH ANY ANSWERS ...

NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD ME, YOU CAN'T HELP BEING INFLU-ENCED BY WHAT I'VE SAID.

THAT IS MY ADVANTAGE OVER YOU POOR PEOPLE IN THE PAST.

ANYWAY, HAPPY HOUR'S OVER. NO MORE FREEBIES.

... WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME?

IF I TOLD YOU IT'S A FIXED EVENT ...

WHY ARE YOU GIVING US SO MUCH TIME?

JUST ASK ANY ANCIENT DEEP-SEA FISH LEFT BEHIND BY EVO-LUTION.

BUT SWIMMING AGAINST THE FLOW IS POSSIBLE.

BUT IF THE FLOW HAS ALREADY BEEN SET, IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

IT'S THE HEIGHT OF IDIOCY TO BE CON-STRAINED BY TIME.

UPSIE-DAISY.

YOU NEED TIME TO THINK, DON'T YOU?

THOUGH I DON'T RECOM-MEND YOU THINK TOO MUCH.

TALK TO SASAKI-SAN AND MAKE UP YOUR MIND.

SU (RISE)

AND IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I MUST GET GOING TOO.

I'D VERY MUCH LIKE FOR US TO SIMPLY BE FRIENDS.

THAT WOULD BE NICE.

SASAKI-SAN, I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN.

REGARD-LESS OF HOW THIS TURNS OUT, I'D LIKE US TO REMAIN FRIENDS.

I'M NOT FUJIWARA-KUN, BUT WHAT WE NEED NOW IS TIME TO DELIBERATE.

KYON, WE SHOULD GET GOING TOO.

FORTU-NATELY, THERE'S STILL TIME LEFT.

IT WAS RUSHED AND UNPLEASANT AS MEETINGS GO, BUT I'M NOT READY TO CALL IT POINTLESS.

THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME-THING WE CAN DO.

GOOD POINT.

WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE THEM GIVE UP.

I HOPE SO, BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DELIB-ERATE ABOUT.

WHICH WAS BETTER? WAS [illegible] QUESTION?

OR A [illegible]

IF YOU ASKED ME...

...I HAD TO ADMIT IT WOULD BE SASAKI.

HOW CAN I EXPLAIN IT?

AND YET IT JUST DIDN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME!

I DIDN'T WANT SASAKI TO HAVE THESE BIZARRE GODLIKE POWERS.

I WANTED MY NORMAL FRIEND TO STAY NORMAL.

HARUHI WAS ALREADY HARUHI, SO WHAT DID IT MATTER?

YOU DIDN'T SEE SHRINES CHANGING WHICH DEITY THEY WERE DEDICATED TO.

IF THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP, I'D WELCOME IT.

KO

TO BE HONEST, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I SHOULD DO.

KO (CLICK)

ALSO, KYON.

DON'T YOU HAVE SOMEONE BESIDES ME YOU CAN TALK TO?

KO

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ASAHINA THE ELDER HASN'T SHOWN UP SO FAR...

HMM...

MAYBE KOIZUMI?

YOU'RE NOT SLEEPWALKING WITH US, ARE YOU?

KUYOH-SAN.

COMPRE-HENSION COM-PLETE

EXECU-TION CON-CLUDED

UM.

THE LAST PART. WERE YOU LISTENING?

NIKO (SMILE)

I AM NOT ASLEEP.

SFX: DO (STOMP) DO DO DO DO DO DO

TA (TAP).

TA

TA

TA

TA

TA

HAA !?

HAA !?

HAA (PANT) !?

HEY, KYON.

IS THERE SOMETHING SHE WANTS TO SAY?

HAS IT?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SASAKI-SAN.

TA (TMP)

STRANGE RUNNING INTO YOU HERE.

HEYA ...

SASAKI-SAN, THIS IS TANIGUCHI.

AND THIS IS...

...HUH?

BA (FWAP)

BA

WHUH !?

...HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?

DAMMIT, KYON ...

HUH!?

NKOO (SMILE)

"THAT'S MY LINE!"

TANIGUCHI, I'M GONNA SAY SOMETHING TOTALLY CLICHED, AND YET TOTALLY ACCURATE...

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA V : END

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VI

β—8

KYON... HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?

THAT'S MY LINE, TANIGUCHI!

IF YOU ASK ME, YOU TWO SHOULD NEVER HAVE MET!

EVEN I COULDN'T SEE KUYOH SOMETIMES, SO WHY DID TANIGUCHI KNOW HER?

IT COULDN'T BE JUST BECAUSE HE WAS SUCH A SKIRT-CHASER.

I...WILL NOT RETURN IT.

I THANK YOU... FOR THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

GURU (GHF)

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, JUST HOCK IT!

THAT'S FINE! IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS EXPEN-SIVE!

CHRISTMAS PRESENT!? WHAT THE...!?

AH, WELL...

I'D LOVE TO KNOW HOW.

YOU KNOW HER?

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE MET YOU AND SUOH-SAN AT THE SAME TIME.

SURE IS A SMALL WORLD.

HE SURE RAN AWAY FAST.

ANYWAY, TANIGUCHI INTRO-DUCED ME TO HER.

?

HUH?

AND ...

...YOU BROKE UP ABOUT A MONTH AGO, RIGHT?

...MY MEMORY SUPPORTS YOUR ACCURACY.

... YES.

GUH ...

WHAT THE HELL?

.. CON-FIRMED

...I WAS.

YOU WERE ALREADY HERE!?

I MEAN, BEFORE THAT THING SHE DID, YOU WERE ALREADY...

WHICH MEANS, BEFORE NAGA...

...IT WAS A MIS-TAKE.

WHY WERE YOU GOING OUT WITH TANI-GUCHI!?

WHEN DID YOU MEET SUOH-SAN, KYON?

THAT'S WHAT TANI-GUCHI SAID SHE SAID.

THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD HIM WHEN THEY SPLIT UP.

WHAT!?

AND SHE'S TANIGUCHI'S EX ON TOP OF ALL THAT?

QUITE AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE, ISN'T IT.

I MET KUYOH-SAN JUST RECENTLY.

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, KYON MET HER THROUGH ME.

SO THIS WAS THE GIRL TANIGUCHI HAD BEEN SEEING LAST DECEMBER?

HEH HEH HEH.

THAT DOESN'T REALLY SOUND LIKE THE KIND OF THING YOU'D SAY, SASAKI-SAN.

BUT IN THIS CASE, PERHAPS WE SHOULD CALL IT AN ACT OF GOD.

IF WE ASSUME THAT SYNCHRONICITY HAPPENS CONSTANTLY ...

...THEN ANY IMPROBABLE EVENT CAN BE DESCRIBED IN TERMS OF ITS PROBABILITY.

YEAH, SEE YA.

HEH HEH HEH.

PLUS I BETTER FIGURE OUT WHERE TANIGUCHI RAN OFF TO.

WELL, I SHOULD BE HEADING HOME.

I'D FEEL BAD IF I MESSED UP YOUR PLANS.

KUYOH ...

A MIS-TAKE ...

?

AND THEN YOU GOT CLOSE TO TANI-GUCHI.

WAS THAT TO CONTACT HARUHI AND ME?

YOU HAD ALREADY COME TO EARTH LAST DECEM-BER, RIGHT?

THE POSSI-BILITY OF JAMMING BY SOME PARTY...

...ALSO EXISTS.

IT SEEMS THAT DATA WAS CON-FUSED SOME-WHERE ...

MIS-TOOK HIM... FOR YOU.

TANIGUCHI, OF ALL PEOPLE?

WAY TO DESTROY MY SELF-CONFIDENCE ..

SO SHE CONFUSED TANIGUCHI FOR ME AND STARTED GOING OUT WITH HIM?

PAKU CAKO

WHEN NAGATO SCREWED UP THE WORLD, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

UM...

IT MADE US FEEL A NOVEL SURPRISE.

YOU WERE ALL IN ILLUSORY SPACE.

I WAS NOT CHA-NGED.

HER TONE'S CHANGED AGAIN

LOCAL-IZED ALTER-ATIONS.

EXCLU-SIVE ACTION.

A WORLD THAT HAD FORMERLY EXISTED, BUT CURRENTLY DID NOT.

OVER-LAPPING WORLDS ...

IT WAS THERE.

A YESTERDAY WITH NO TODAY...A TOMORROW WITH NO YESTERDAY.

FASCI-NATING.

A TODAY WITH NO TOMOR-ROW.

...YOU MUST HAVE SOME LINGER-ING AFFEC-TION FOR HIM.

BUT IF YOU'RE STILL WEARING THE WATCH HE GAVE YOU...

SHE SOUNDS MORE LIKE A FANATIC THAN A LUNATIC.

...TIME IS NOT A UNI-DIRECTIONAL, IRREVERS BLE PHENOMENON.

I'M STARTING TO GET SURPRISE EXHAUSTION...

...I SAID... I WANTED IT.

IT'S JUST A COLLECTION OF SPRINGS AND GEARS

HENCE THE WATCH?

TO ENGAGE IN BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES ON THIS PLANET'S SURFACE, IT WAS NECESSARY.

TO STABILIZE PSELDO-OBJECTIVE TIME FLOW.

IT IS NOT CONTIGUOUS.

...TIME IS RANDOMLY GENERATED

A WATCH DOESN'T DICTATE THE FLOW OF TIME.

IT'S JUST A CONVENIENT WAY OF NUMBERING THE PROGRESSION OF PEOPLE'S ACTIVITY IN THE DAY.

HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THEM?

SO WHAT ABOUT PAST AND FUTURE?

HOW MUCH TIME IS THERE BETWEEN ONE SECOND AND THE NEXT?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

SHOW ME PROOF BY INFINITE DESCENT.

...TIME IS FINITE.

SHE'S TAKEN THE BAIT.

OR ARE YOU SAYING THAT AKASHIC RECORDS EXIST?

?
?
IF THERE ARE PARALLEL WORLDS ...
HMM, SO WHAT ABOUT THIS.
HOW-EVER, THERE IS NO DANGER IN THINKING OTHER-WISE.
NONE.
REALLY?
...NOTHING UNOB-SERVABLE EXISTS.
AS EVERETT WOULD HAVE SAID.
...CAN THEY BE INFINITE IN NUM-BER?
I SEE.
.AL-READY RECOR-DED.
... QUES-TIONS POINT-LESS.

ALL I'VE UNDER-STOOD IS THAT SHE'S FUNDA-MENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM US HUMANS.

YEAH, UH, THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "I SEE"?

YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN THAT A LITTLE BETTER?

SO NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THINGS WILL TURN OUT LIKE THIS.

HUMANITY HAS ACCOMPLISHED MANY FEATS THAT PESSIMISTS WOULD HAVE CALLED IMPOSSIBLE.

NOT NECES-SARILY.

SO SOME-DAY...

UNDERSTANDING THAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND IS ITSELF PROGRESS.

THAT'S AN ALIEN FOR YOU, I GUESS

HEY, KYON!

...HUH?

DON'T OVERESTIMATE HER.

KYON.

WE MAY BE SAD, LIMITED CREATURES, BOUND BY GRAVITY...

JUST AS WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND HER ...

...SHE CAN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND US.

I'LL THINK THINGS OVER.

KAA (CAW)

FEAR IS OFTEN GREATER THAN THE DANGER, AFTER ALL.

KAA ?

KAA ?

FAREWELL FOR NOW, KYON.

AND...

...IT'S NOT CERTAIN THAT WE OURSELVES WON'T EVOLVE FURTHER.

...BUT WE STILL HAVE ENOUGH VALUE TO DRAW HER TO EARTH.

SHA-
(SHHK)

UH
...

THE DAY'S SUNSHINE WAS WARMER AND FELT MORE LIKE EARLY SUMMER THAN SPRING.

THE NEXT DAY. WEDNESDAY.

NOW, THEN ...

I'D BE HAPPY IF THEY JUST STAYED MYSTERIOUS.

I WONDERED WHEN THEIR FORESHADOWING WAS GOING TO PAY OFF.

THERE'D BEEN NO NOISES FROM SASAKI OR KUYOH.

α—9

IT'S TOO PEACEFUL...

WHAT MADE ME MURMUR THAT ALOUD?

I DIDN'T KNOW MYSELF.

YOU SURE CUT THAT CLOSE.

STILL PREPARING THE BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAMS?

BOW ...

GARA (SLIDE)

GU (CREAK)

MM...

THERE'S THAT TOO...

TAKE YOUR SEATS

KI (SQUEAK)

I WONDER WHY.

I JUST FELT LIKE LIKE I HAD TO COOK SOME-THING.

I MADE MYSELF LUNCH.

IS YOUR MOM A LOUSY COOK OR SOME-THING?

IS THERE SOME REASON FOR THAT?

COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU DON'T USUALLY BRING YOUR LUNCH?

MOM—ER, MY MOTHER'S SENSE OF TASTE IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL PEOPLE'S...

HOW'D YOU KNOW?

WHAT WAS THIS FEELING?

HELLO!

TO BE HONEST...

...IT FELT LIKE SHE WAS TRYING TO AVOID GOING TO THE CLUB ROOM...

THIS TOTALLY ORDINARY CONVER-SATION FELT SOMEHOW VERY IMPORTANT.

LIKE A QUIET, CALM INTER-MISSION.

HELLO!

WE LOST ONE YESTERDAY, SO NOW WE'VE GOT A FULL HOUSE.

SO THERE ARE THREE BOYS AND TWO GIRLS LEFT.

ONE, TWO...

WHAT WAS THIS NAME-LESS DREAD ...

...THAT HAD HAUNTED ME SINCE I AWOKE?

AND THE FINAL SOS BRIGADE ADMISSION EXAMINATION WILL NOW BEGIN!

I DON'T WANT TO WASTE A LOT OF TIME MESSING AROUND.

"FINAL..." THIS IS IT?

ALL I NEED TO SEE NOW IS GUTS!

TAN (SLAM)

PLUS I'VE ALREADY GATHERED MORE THAN ENOUGH DATA.

THAT'S HOW IT IS.

THE TRIAL MEMBER-SHIP PERIOD WILL SOON BE OVER.

IT'S BEST TO DECIDE THIS KIND OF THING QUICKLY AND CLEANLY.

SIGN: FINAL SCREENING HERE

ARMBAND: CHIEF

TIME TO GET CHANGED!

YOU ALL BROUGHT YOUR GYM CLOTHES, RIGHT?

最終審査
こちらです↓

BUT THE TRUE TRIAL STARTS HERE.

AND IT'S EARNED YOU THE RIGHT TO TAKE THIS FINAL TEST.

YOU'VE ALL DONE VERY WELL SO FAR.

SIGN: FINAL SCREENING HERE

終審査
ちらです↓

BISHI (WHAP)

ビシ

I'LL JUST SAY NOW THAT IT'S GOING TO BE A LOT TOUGHER THAN WHAT YOU'VE DONE SO FAR.

YOU'LL NEED STRENGTH, GUTS, COURAGE.

GENERICALLY SPEAKING, I GUESS.

YEAH, BUT ANYWAY ...

SHE'S GIVING QUITE AN IMPRES-SIVE SPEECH. THAT'S OUR BRIGADE CHIEF.

AND MOST IMPOR-TANTLY, THE PERSIS-TENCE TO NEVER GIVE UP!

THE FINAL TEST IS... A MARA-THON!

BA (WHAP)

...WHY IS HARUHI WEARING HER GYM CLOTHES?

SO FOLLOW ME CLOSELY, GOT IT?

THIS IS ALL FOR THE NOBLEST OF CAUSES.

DA (DASH)

OKAY, START!

I SYMPATHIZED DEEPLY WITH THOSE POOR FRESHMEN.

I'M JUST GLAD IT WASN'T THE USUAL NONSENSICAL DEMANDS...

NICE AND SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?

AFTER ALL THIS, IT COMES DOWN TO JUST RUNNING, HUH?

...ARE THEY ALL, YOU KNOW, CLEAN?

THOSE FRESHMEN RUNNING THAT POINTLESS MARATHON ...

HEY, KOI-ZUMI.

...THERE IS ONE STUDENT WHO WORRIES ME.

AL-THOUGH

BUT OF COURSE. NO NEED TO WORRY.

HA (PANT)

HA

HA

HA

SHE'S DEFINITELY A NORMAL HUMAN, BUT...

...I THINK I'LL KEEP THAT A SECRET FOR NOW.

THE HELL?

IT'S A TRIVIAL THING, REALLY.

YOU KNOW HER ORIGINS, RIGHT?

SHE WAS A SLIGHTLY SPECIAL CASE, BUT...

YES, WE INVES-TIGATED HER.

STILL ...

INDEED, SHE MAY EVEN HELP US.

WE'VE CONCLUDED IT'S NOTHING THAT COULD POSSIBLY HARM US.

IT'S SOLELY REGARDING MYSELF.

IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE NEW CANDI-DATES.

...I'VE BEEN FEELING A SENSE OF UNEASE THAT'S DIFFICULT TO VER-BALIZE.

IT'S JUST, LATELY...

IT'S LIKE I'M GETTING FAINTER...

HOW TO EXPLAIN IT...

I DON'T MEAN EXTER-NALLY.

...OR WHETHER IT'S SOME UNREAL PHANTOM WORLD ANOTHER VERSION OF MYSELF IS DREAMING.

HA

HA

HA

HAA

IT'S MORE LIKE WONDERING WHETHER WHAT I'M THINKING IS REALLY MY OWN FREE WILL...

HA (PANT)

AND I DOUBT THE AGENCY WILL NEED TO ACT FOR A WHILE.

I'M SURE IT IS.

SUZUMIYA-SAN IS ENJOYING HERSELF.

I HOPE THIS IS JUST A PERSONAL PROBLEM.

HAA

YOU... YOU DID VERY WELL.

WERE YOU ON THE TRACK TEAM?

HAA

HAA (PANT)

L- LET'S... LET'S STOP HERE FOR TODAY.

HAA

ZEI ZEI (WHEEZE)

WHAT I'VE BEEN AIMING FOR IS THE SOS BRIGADE!!

NO...

...I'VE STAYED A FREE AGENT IN ALL MY CLUB ACTIVITIES.

GOO (RUMBLE)

I'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS DAY, TO GET IN NO MATTER WHAT!

HAA

HAA

HAA!?

I'VE WORKED REALLY HARD!

EVEN IF YOU TELL ME TO CATCH THE MOON'S REFLECTION IN THE WATER...

...I'LL DO IT!

I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU TELL ME TO DO!

BAAAN (BAAAM)

HAA (PANT)
HAA
HAA
SU (SIPT)
MY COMPLIMENTS ON YOUR TENACITY.
YOU RAN WELL.
ZEI (WHEEZE)
ZEI
ZEI
I NEVER THOUGHT ANYONE WOULD MATCH MY STAMINA.
TO BE HONEST, I'M SURPRISED.
CURSED
CURSED
MY CONCERNS WERE NOW FOCUSED ON ONE POINT.
AND THAT WAS...
GA (GRAB)

WAS SHE A POWER THAT HAD SOMEHOW SLIPPED PAST BOTH NAGATO AND KOIZUMI?

SHE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE ONE, BUT...

...DID SHE KNOW ...?

WELL.

BUT LISTEN CARE-FULLY...

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO PASSED.

ワアーッ

WAA (WHOO)

OKAY!!

BI (JAB)

THIS WAS ONLY THE FIRST APTI-TUDE TEST.

THERE MIGHT BE A BIT MORE, JUST SO YOU KNOW.

HOW MANY SPECIES WAS I GONNA HAVE TO DEAL WITH?

PLEASE, NO.

SURELY SHE WASN'T A FIFTH POWER ...?

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VI : END

TO BE CONTINUED

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

18

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